

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An imaging apparatus having a function of authenticating if image data generated by a self apparatus has not been altered, and a function of authenticating if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further having a function of generating authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by the self apparatus has not been altered.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by the self apparatus has not been altered is generated, data unique to said imaging apparatus is used.
4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by the self apparatus has not been altered is generated, secret data held by said imaging apparatus is used.
5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when authentication data used to authenticate if image data

generated by the self apparatus has not been altered is generated, a hash function is used.

6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by the self apparatus has not been altered is generated, an arithmetic operation based on a predetermined common key cipher system is made.

7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when it is authenticated if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, data unique to the other apparatus is used.

8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when it is authenticated if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, secret data held by said imaging apparatus is used.

9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when it is authenticated if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, a hash function is used.

10. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when it is authenticated if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, an arithmetic

operation based on a predetermined common key cipher system is made.

11. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said  
5 imaging apparatus comprises one of a digital camera, digital video camera, and scanner.

12. An imaging apparatus having a first mode of generating image data, and generating authentication  
10 data used to authenticate if the image data has not been altered, and a second mode of authenticating if the image data has not been altered, using the authentication data.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein  
when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by a self apparatus has not been altered is generated, data unique to said imaging apparatus is used.

20 14. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by a self apparatus has not been altered is generated, secret data held by said imaging  
25 apparatus is used.

15. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by a self apparatus has not been altered is generated, a hash function is used.

5

16. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when authentication data used to authenticate if image data generated by a self apparatus has not been altered is generated, an arithmetic operation based on a  
10 predetermined common key cipher system is made.

17. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when it is authenticated if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, data unique to  
15 the other apparatus is used.

18. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when it is authenticated if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, secret data held  
20 by said imaging apparatus is used.

19. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when it is authenticated if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, a hash function  
25 is used.

20. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein when it is authenticated if image data generated by the other apparatus has not been altered, an arithmetic operation based on a predetermined common key cipher  
5 system is made.

21. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said imaging apparatus comprises one of a digital camera, digital video camera, and scanner.